

71 A3 Cont. C1 forwarding received broadcast messages to other network devices in accordance with said pruned broadcast tree.

11. (Amended) A network switch including a computer readable storage medium tangibly embodying a method operable within said network switch for managing a broadcast tree, said method comprising the steps of:

constructing a pruned broadcast tree by propagation of dynamic cost information packets; and forwarding received broadcast messages to other network devices in accordance with said pruned broadcast tree.

Please add new claims 21-26 as shown below:

21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein an acknowledgement message is received in response to the dynamic cost information packet, where the acknowledgement message indicates if an associated path should be used for broadcast to an identified network device.

22. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
using an acknowledgement message that is first received to establish a preferred broadcast path to an identified network device.

23. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the dynamic cost information packet includes cost that is updated periodically.